

number of employees it needs, based on its income from applications, to process the applications filed by and fully paid for by the users. The bill gives the Office greater flexibility with respect to management of its office space, procurement, and other matters. The users of the Patent and Trademark Office will be represented on a management advisory board that will advise the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office's operations. Making the Office accountable to its users through consultations with them is a significant step in improving its operations.

Title II improves the procedures for examining patent applications. It provides for the publication of most U.S.-origin applications 18 months after the date of application filing, unless a patent already has been granted by that time. It also requires publication of foreign-origin applications in the English language generally within 6 months after they are filed in the United States—a full 12 months earlier than under current law. Unlike the situation today, the owner of the patent application will have a provisional right to a royalty from other parties who use the invention after publication and before patent grant. Publication of new technologies eliminates duplication of effort and accelerates technology licensing. Early publication is accompanied by a guarantee that U.S. inventors, especially independent inventors and small businesses, can receive an indication of their likelihood of obtaining a patent before their application is published. They will then be able to make an informed decision regarding whether they should withdraw the application before publication. Title II also makes some other improvements including the rules for extending the term of a patent when delays occur that are not the fault of the applicant.

Title III creates a defense against infringement charges for parties who have independently developed and used technology in the United States before a patent application was filed on that technology by another party. This will protect the investments of innovative American manufacturers who have built plants using technology later patented by their foreign competitors.

Title IV protects inventors from the fraudulent practices of invention development firms by requiring disclosure of a firm's track record and allowing the inventor to withdraw from a contract with a developer within a reasonable time.

Title V makes improvements in the procedures for reexamining a patent in the Patent and Trademark Office after it has been granted by the Office. The refined reexamination procedures in the bill will give the public a fairer opportunity than is presently allowed to have the Office consider information missed by the examiner. The revised procedures will better balance the interests of the patentee and the public and offer an effective alternative to expensive litigation in court.

Title VI provides a number of other improvements in our patent laws. It ensures that U.S. law provides priority consistent with our obligations to WTO countries and authorizes submission of patent applications through electronic media.

I look forward to working with all interested parties as we prepare to move this important and necessary patent legislation through this Congress. The reforms contained in this bill

are needed to make the patent system best serve the country now and into the next century.

### INDIAN REGIME MUST FREE AMERICAN CITIZEN DHILLON

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 1997*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask when the Government of India will finally get around to letting American citizen Balbir Singh Dhillon come home to his family. He has been held since May on trumped-up charges.

Mr. Dhillon, a 43-year-old businessman and an American citizen, was arrested in May on charges that he was carrying RDX explosives with the intention of assassinating leaders of the Akali Dal, the Sikh, political party. The Human Rights Wing issued a report which proves these charges false. Yet the Indian regime continues to hold Mr. Dhillon anyway. On September 26, a bipartisan group of 36 Members of Congress also wrote to President Clinton urging his personal intervention to bring Mr. Dhillon back to the United States. The President wrote us back to assure us that Ambassador Frank Wisner has taken up his case with the regime. I am pleased that the administration is working on the case, but so far they have not gotten through to the Indian regime. Mr. Dhillon remains in the clutches of this brutal tyranny. While he is free on bail, he is not free to leave India.

Could the fact that Mr. Dhillon is a Sikh, a Khalistani American, be a factor in this case? The Indian regime has apparently decided to target Sikhs living outside of India or Khalistan. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, who is the president of the Council of Khalistan, was informed by the FBI that there is an assassination threat against him. His organization is leading the Sikh Nation's peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. Khalistan declared its independence on October 7, 1987. Dr. Aulakh was also informed in a telephone call from Germany, where he will be visiting soon, that there is an assassination threat against him there also. Dr. Aulakh has been a valuable source of information for many of us in Congress. The civilized world will not accept this kind of outrageous effort to intimidate an articulate spokesman for his people's freedom.

In July, about 20 Indian Government agents severely beat Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, the leading Khalistani activist in Britain, when he requested emergency medical treatment for an acute heart condition. Dr. Chohan is a 68-year-old man whose right hand was amputated years ago. Clearly, the beating of Dr. Chohan and the continuing detention of Balbir Singh Dhillon are designed to send a message to any Sikhs who are thinking of getting involved in the struggle for freedom.

It is an outrage that this is allowed to happen to anyone, let alone an American citizen. It is time to take strong measures against the brutal, corrupt regime that is holding Mr. Dhillon. I would like to know why the American taxpayers are paying their hard-earned dollars to support a regime that can treat American citizens this way. What has happened to Mr.

Dhillon and his family is a terrible thing. The fact that we are sending money to the regime that is responsible for it just makes it worse.

The time has come to take action. We should stop sending United States aid to India. India is a country which votes against us at the United Nations more often than all but a couple of countries. It was a close ally of the Soviet Union. It is leading the nuclear arms race in South Asia. Khalistan, on the other hand, has promised to sign a 100-year treaty of friendship with the United States. There is an old saying in politics: Join the side you're on. It is time for America to join the side we are on by taking these strong measures to secure freedom, dignity, and prosperity for all the peoples of South Asia.

### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VET- ERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 8805

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 1997*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8805 in Hopewell Township.

Named after Robert W. Young, the first Hopewell resident killed in duty during World War II. Young was killed when his ship, the USS Sims, was sunk by Japanese airplanes in the Battle of the Coral Sea on May 7, 1942.

VFW Post 8805 is currently home to over 600 veteran members and 280 ladies' auxiliary members. Many of these people are charter members of Post 8805. The first members were those returning from Europe and the Pacific and every other theater of World War II. From the beginning, VFW Post 8805 has been made up of citizen heroes, who left their homes and loved ones to undergo incredible hardships and sacrifices in defense of our freedoms. Fortunately, these people returned home to become some of the most outstanding members of the community. Contributing in peace as they had contributed in war.

A special salute to Ernest Parisi and Richard Paxton, two of the founding members of VFW Post 8805. Without their perseverance, the dream of Post 8805 would not have become a reality. They and all the members are a fine representation of the Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, let us never forget the honor, courage, and valor displayed by all the members of the VFW. They have done a great service to our country. I ask you and all members to join me in a special salute to VFW Post 8805.

### A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT TEGLIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Albert Teglia, a man who has dedicated his life not only to public office, but to public service. His dedication and devotion to duty has